

## Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

CU-04 PC-10 OPR-02 SY-10 /124 W

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O 290738Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4215

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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NEA PASS AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN GUJARAT

REF: BOMBAY 0227 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING BEST INFO AVAILABLE US, SITUATION AHMEDABAD QUIET SINCE ARMY TAKEOVER LAW AND ORDER AT NOON YESTERDAY 28TH IN RESPONSE REQUEST STATE GOVT. SITUATION APPARENTLY QUIET THROUGHOUT STATE AS WELL WITH CURFEW NOW WITHDRAWN IN ALL TOWNS EXCEPT AHMEDABAD AND BARODA. (LOCAL JOURNALISTS REPRESENTATING GUJARATI DAILIES UNABLE ESTABLISH TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS SINCE LAST EVE.)

2. PRESS CARRIES ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY WITH POL ACTION COMMITTEE OF UNION CABINET HAS DECIDED SEND K.C. PANT MINISTER IRRIGATION AND POWER, TO GUJARAT TODAY TO STUDY SITUATION AND REPORT BACK TO DELHI ON 30TH. PRESS STORIES ALSO STATE PAC TOOK DECISION RUSH ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF GRAIN

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TO GUJARAT.

3. KEEN OBSERVER GUJARAT SCENE NIRUBHAI DESAI, SENIOR JOURNALIST EIMEDABAD AND MEMBER GUJARAT PLANNING BOARD CALLED TONNEVIEW SITUATION GUJARAT WITH KULKARNI AND ME THIS MORNING. HE CHARACTERIZES SITUATION THERE AS A "REVOLT AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT" AND ONE IN WHICH AT LEAST 80 PERCENT GUJARAT'S URBAN POPULATION (RESEPRESENTS 31PC) HAS BEEN INVOLVED AS WELL AS A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS RURAL POPULATION. HE EMPHASIZED SPONTANEOUS CHARACTER THIS POPULAR MASS UPSURGE WHICH HAS NO CENTRAL FOCUS OR LEADERSHIP ALTHOUGH STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IN FOREFRONT. HE KNOWS LATTER'S LEADERS AND HAS TALKED TO THEM. HE CHARACTERIZES THEM AS "IDEALISTS" FOR MOST PART AND WHO IN RESPONSE HIS QUETION AS TO THE ALTERNATIVE TO CONGRESS, TAKE POSITION THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO PROPOSE BUT SA LET US GET RID OF THIS CORRUPT ESTABLISHMENT AND THE ALTERNATIVE WILL EMERGE IN PROCESS. DESAI CONCERNED THAT YOUTHFUL, WELL-EDUCATED STUDENT LEADERS MAY ASSUME MORE MILITANT POSTURE WITH PASSAGE TIME. SEES FERMENT IN GUJARAT AS SIGNALING REVERSION TO LARGELY ANTI-CONGRESS 1967 PATTERN IN INDIA.

DESAI CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY POPULAR UNREST WILL DIMINISH PENDING RESIGNATION CHIEF MIN PTAEL AND IMPROVEMENT IN FOOD AND PRICE SITUATION. THESE TWO DEVELOPMENTS HE BELIEVES COULD EASE SITUATION SUBSTANTIALLY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ARMY HAS BROUGHT QUIET TO AHMEDABAD AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUEDO SO WHILE PRESENT THERE AND WHILE ITS EMPLOYMENT HAS LIKELY HAD SALUTARY SIDE EFFECT THROUGHOUT STATE, WE DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY REAL EASING IN SITUATION UNTIL GOG AND GOI MAKE SOME DEMINSTRATABLE HEADWAY IN DEALING WITH SHORTAGES AND PRICES AND CHIEF MIN PATEL STEPS DOWN IN RESPONSE POPULAR DEMAND. EVEN SO WE WONDER WHETHER THIS WILL SUFFICE TO CAP ENTIRELY FERMENT BREWING GUJARAT WHICH INCREASINGLY SEEKS QUESTION INDIAN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE ITSELF AT TIME WHEN CONGRESS CREDIBILITY AT ALL TIME LOW.  
BANE

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## Message Attributes

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